(f) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has initiated steps to bring forth a legislation for amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to curb manufacture, sale etc. of spurious and adulterated drugs on the lines suggested by the Mashelkar Committee.

(b) World Health Organization (WHO) has made no such statement.

(c) There is no validation of such claims available with the Government.

(d) No such WHO report exists.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR, Chairman of the Expert Committee has submitted its final report to the Government in November, 2003. Steps have been initiated to examine the report of the Committee.

Standards for potable water

523. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are no set standards for drinking water; and

(b) if so, the action taken to enforce standards in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b)The Central Government has not specified any standards for drinking water since 'water' is not included within the definition of 'food' under the PFA Act, 1954. However, the Central Government had declared 'packaged drinking water' as an item of food in exercise of its powers under section 2 (v) (c) of PFA Act, 1954, *vide* Notification GSR, 202 (E) dated 21.3.2001. Government has laid down standards for 'Mineral Water' and Packaged Drinking Water' *vide* Notification No. GSR 759 (E) dated 29.9.2000 (with effect from 29.3.2001) and GSR 760 (E) dated 29.9.2000 (with effect from 29.3.2001) respectively. The standards for pesticide residues in packaged drinking water have been revised, *vide* Notification GSR 554 (E) dated 18th July 2003 and the limits notified are the same as those prescribed by the EU. The revised standards would come into effect from 1st January, 2004.